

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



26 MAY 2005

(43) International Publication Date  
10 June 2004 (10.06.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/048705 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: E02F 5/12, 5/22

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/AU2003/001372

(22) International Filing Date: 16 October 2003 (16.10.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
2002952972 28 November 2002 (28.11.2002) AU

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):  
MITCHELL AUSTRALASIA PTY LTD. [AU/AU]:  
Level 350 King Street, West Melbourne, Victoria 3003  
(AU).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): MITCHELL, Wayne,  
Gregory [AU/AU]; 67 Anzac Avenue, Seymour, Victoria  
3660 (AU).

(74) Agent: WATERMARK PATENT & TRADEMARK  
ATTORNEYS; 290 Burwood Road, Hawthorn, Victoria  
3122 (AU).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AI, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,  
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE,  
GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR,  
KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK,  
MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT,  
RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT,  
TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

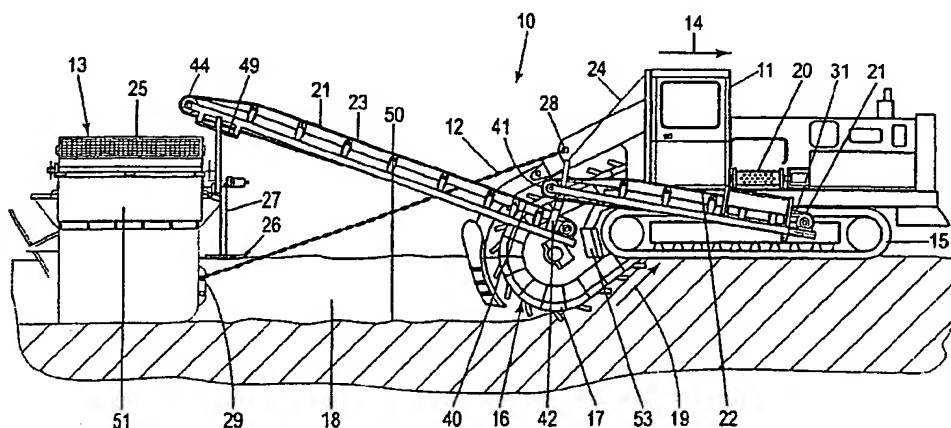
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,  
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,  
SE, SI, SK, TR). OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,  
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: TRENCH FORMING AND PREPARING APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: The specification discloses apparatus (10) for excavating a trench (18) and preparing a base region of the trench (18) for laying of a pipeline, cabling or the like therein, the apparatus (10) including a trench forming machine (11) driven in a forward direction (14) while excavating the trench (18), the apparatus (10) also including a device (13) for laying bedding material in the base region of the trench, the device (13) being integrally part of the trench forming machine (11) or being towed thereby, the apparatus (10) further including conveyor means (20, 22, 23) for conveying excavated trench material created by the trench forming machine (11) to the device (13) for laying bedding material into the trench (18), the device (13) including a vibrating screen separator (25) for separating fine particulate material from coarser excavated trench material whereby the fine particulate material is delivered to the base region of the trench (18).

WO 2004/048705 A1